

24. (Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

25. (Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

26. (Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

*Please cancel claim 31, without prejudice.*

*Please amend claim 33 as follows.*

33. (Amended) The bacterium of claim 32 wherein said bacterium is *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.